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(54) **DT VAPOR WASH**
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See application file for complete search history.

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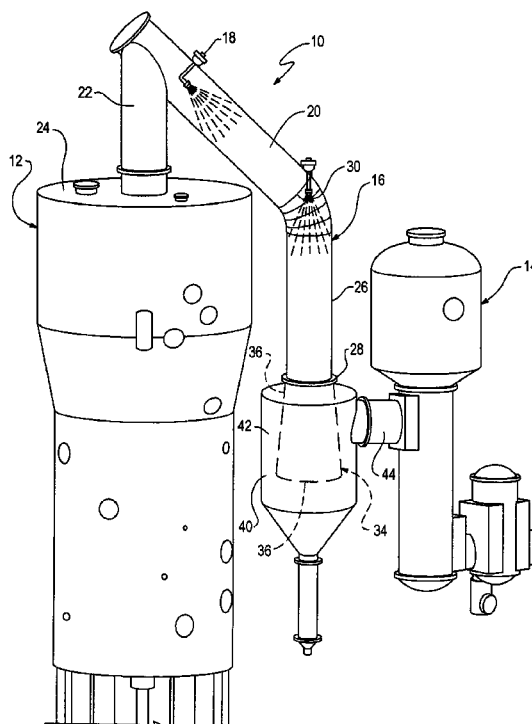
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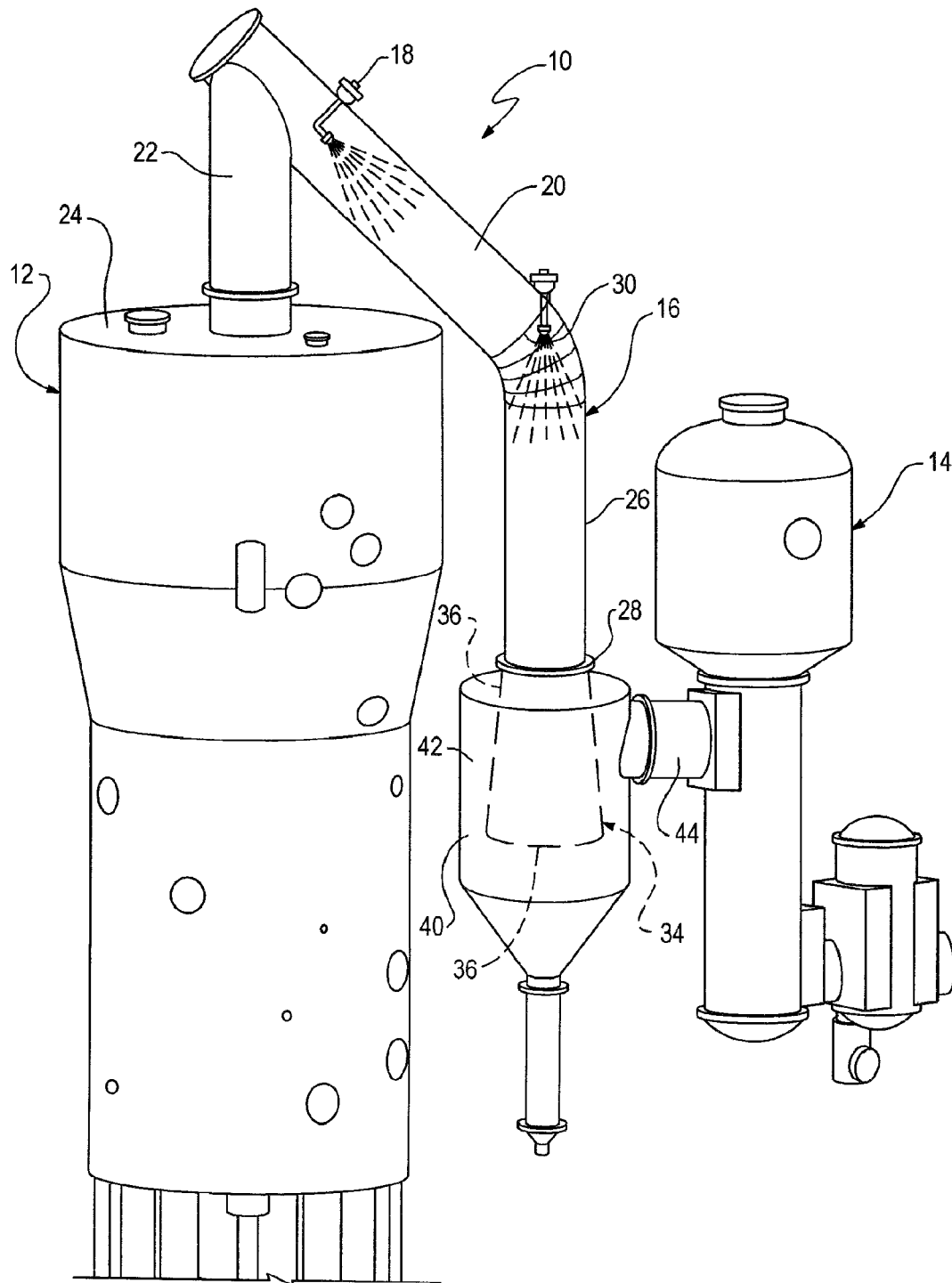
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
An agricultural product treatment system. A preferred embodiment of the invention includes a truncated conical section which has a small diameter at one end in fluid communication with a conduit array conveying particulate matter from the DT. An open large diameter end of the structure is axially coextensive and coaxial with an expanded diameter conduit portion.

4 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet





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DT VAPOR WASH

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a regular application filed under 35 U.S.C. §111(a) claiming priority, under 35 U.S.C. §119(e)(1), of provisional application Ser. No. 61/521,995, previously filed Aug. 10, 2011, under 35 U.S.C. §111(b).

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention is an apparatus for cleaning vapors generated within a desolventizer/toaster (DT) of particulate matter entrained within the vapors and before the vapors are conveyed by conduit to an evaporator. The structure employs unique components interposed between the DT and a down flow evaporator. It is able to achieve a high level of efficiency because of the unique structure.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has, as a goal, the scrubbing or cleaning of vapors from a DT. Particulate matter such as dust is precipitated out of the vapors so that the dust is not ingested into an evaporator used in a processing system. Various attempts have been made to provide solutions to problems dealing with cleaning such vapors. One such attempt has been to employ a cyclone on top of the DT. Such a solution has, however, proven expensive, and it affords undesirable pressure drop. Such a solution is unsatisfactory because it diminishes the efficiency of the overall system.

Another proposed solution has been to provide means for introducing a spray of solvent in the DT. Such a spray is typically located at a point where the vapors go into a duct which allows them to exit the DT. This solution has also proven to be unsatisfactory, however, since the solvent moistens the meal below. In consequence, energy waste occurs. Even further, however, such a solution has proven inefficient in accomplishing cleaning of the vapors.

Another proposed solution is to provide a water wash. As in the case of solvent cleaning, the water wash is positioned in the duct exiting the DT. Again, however, this solution has inherent problems. As in the case of solvent cleaning, unnecessary energy is expended.

It is to these deficiencies that the present invention is directed. The present invention incorporates a concept which allows cleaning of vapors from a DT of particulate matter before the vapors are conveyed to an evaporator.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is employed in a system for treating agricultural products. A typical process in which the invention comes into play is treating, for example, grain to remove the hulls thereof. The system with which the present invention is applicable for use has a desolventizer/toaster (DT) and an evaporator connected down flow of the DT by a conduit array. The system further includes a mist injection station in a segment of the conduit array extending downwardly at an acute angle from an egress port rising from an upper end of the DT. A generally vertically extending segment of the conduit array includes communication with an egress end of the segment of the conduit array which extends downwardly at an acute angle. A truncated conical section has a small diameter end in fluid communication with an egress end of the generally vertically extending segment, and an open, large diameter end

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is axially coextensive and coaxial with an expanded diameter conduit portion. In view of the structure employed, an annular plenum is defined within the expanded diameter conduit portion. A bridge section of the conduit array facilitates passage of fluid flow and particulate matter entrained therein from the annular plenum to the evaporator.

A wall, forming the truncated conical section, relative to an axis with respect to which the various components are defined is, it is intended, small. A preferred embodiment of the invention limits the angle to less than 20 degrees.

The present invention typically includes a mist injection station which can be located in the conduit array so as to employ the station to add chemicals to neutralize various deleterious effects. For example, it can be employed to add chemicals which neutralize the effects of corrosive acids, caustic chemicals, etc.

The product treatment system in accordance with the present invention can employ a truncated conical section which functions with the expandable diameter conduit portion as a cyclone. This allows the achievement of efficiency in the overall system.

The present invention is thus an apparatus for use in a system having a DT and an evaporator apparatus. More specific features of the invention and advantages achieved by those features will become apparent with reference to the detailed description, appended claims, and accompanying drawing FIGURE.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURE

The FIGURE is a perspective view of a treatment system employing the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to the drawing wherein like reference numerals denote like elements throughout, the FIGURE illustrates a system **10** for treating agricultural products that have, for example, been processed by using hexane or another solvent. Desolventizers/toasters (DT) are used to recover the solvent and revive the agricultural product.

The FIGURE illustrates a desolventizer/toaster (DT) **12** into which the product being recovered is received. The DT **12** is, in essence, at one end of the process, and an evaporator **14** is at the other end. In between the two is a conduit array **16** through which products are conveyed.

An embodiment of the present invention envisions use of a mist injection station **18**. This station **18** is interposed within the conduit array **16** down flow of the DT **12**. While other locations for placement of a mist injection station are contemplated, the FIGURE shows it posited in a segment of the conduit array **16** between the DT **12** and evaporator **14** which extends downwardly at an acute angle from an egress port **22** rising from an upper end **24** of the DT **12**. It has been found that an angle of 45 degrees relative to the vertical is appropriate for purposes of the system in which the present invention operates.

As shown in the FIGURE, a generally vertically extending segment **26** of the conduit array **16** extends downwardly from an egress end **28** of the angled portion **20**. The generally vertically extending segment **26** is in fluid communication with the egress end **30** of the segment of the conduit array **16** extending downwardly at an acute angle.

The egress end **28** of the generally vertical segment **26**, in turn, communicates with a truncated conical section **34** which has a small diameter end **36** and a large diameter end **38**. The

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small diameter end **36** is in fluid communication with an egress end **28** of the generally vertically extending segment **36**. The large diameter end **38** is axially coextensive and coaxial with an expanded diameter conduit portion **40**. An annular plenum **42** is thereby defined within the expanded diameter conduit portion **40** between a wall defining that portion and the truncated conical section **34**. A bridge section **44** of the conduit array **16** facilitates passage of fluid flow and particulate matter entrained therein from said annular plenum **42** to the evaporator **14**.

As shown in the FIGURE, the product treatment system **10** in accordance with the invention can employ a truncated conical section which has a large diameter only slightly larger than the small diameter. The angle of the surface of the truncated conical section **34** relative to the expanded diameter conduit portion **40** will, therefore, be relatively small. It is submitted that the angle can be, in view of the other components of the system, less than 20 degrees.

It will be understood that the mist injection station **18** can serve multiple functions. It can function as a water wash **32** for the particulate material, or it can be employed for adding chemicals to neutralize the effects of corrosive acids and caustic chemicals.

Also, if desired, the truncated conical section **34** and the expanded diameter conduit portion **40** can function as a cyclone. Particulate matter can, therefore, more efficiently be removed.

It will be understood that this disclosure, in many respects, is only illustrative. Changes may be made in details, particularly in matters of shape, size, material, and arrangement of parts without exceeding the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is as defined in the language of the appended claims.

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What is claimed is:

1. An agricultural product treatment system having a desolventizer/toaster (DT) and an evaporator apparatus connected down flow of the DT by a conduit array, further comprising:

- a mist injection station in a segment of the conduit array extending downwardly at an acute angle from an egress port rising from an upper end of the DT;
- a generally vertically extending segment of the conduit array in fluid communication with an egress end of the segment of the conduit array extending downwardly at an acute angle;
- a truncated conical section having a small diameter end in fluid communication with an egress end of said generally vertically extending segment, and an open, large diameter end axially coextensive and coaxial with an expanded diameter conduit portion, thereby defining an annular plenum within said expanded diameter conduit portion; and
- a bridge section of the conduit facilitating passage of fluid flow and particulate matter entrained therein from said annular plenum to the evaporator.

2. The product treatment system in accordance with claim **1** wherein an angle defined by a wall, forming said truncated conical section, relative to an axis with respect to which the various components are defined, is less than 20 degrees.

3. The product treatment system in accordance with claim **1** wherein said mist injection station is located in said conduit array so that said mist injection station can be employed to add chemicals to neutralize the effects of corrosive acids and caustic chemicals.

4. The product treatment system in accordance with claim **1** wherein said truncated conical section and said expanded diameter conduit portion function as a cyclone.

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